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Sep 11th 2018

Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1

Dear FCC,

I am a retired high school teacher and happy customer of Sonic.net here in Los Angeles. I have phone and internet with them via DSL.

Previously, I was a customer of AT&T. When we moved from one apartment to another in our building, I was not permitted to keep AT&T DSL and was forced to switch to their Uverse plan. It was annoying to be a customer of AT&T. They played games with promotional rates and renewals, necessitating annual discussions. Near the end of my association with AT&T, they had a national outage. This happens, of course, but when that ended after a couple of hours, my service did not return - it took six days for my internet to be restored and eight for my "landline." During that period, I spent five and a half hours on the phone with AT&T and found that they routinely failed to perform on their promises. Service that had been scheduled was repeatedly canceled. It seems that they do not have enough personnel to maintain their rotting infrastructure. (BTW, I put landline in quotes above because it isn't copper and therefore won't work during a power outage - a very important consideration here in earthquake territory.)

I came to loathe AT&T as a result of that experience and counted the months until my contract obligation was met. Fortunately, my brother in Northern California and one of my students mentioned Sonic. My experience with Sonic has been smooth. The technical support agents are readily accessible and invariably helpful. Most important to me, they keep their promises, and they have better luck getting AT&T out on short notice (they rely on AT&T DSL lines) than I ever had.

It would be a shame if Sonic, and companies like them, were put out of business by legislators and regulators. AT&T and Spectrum need competitors to keep the marketplace honest. I urge you to not to restrict Sonic's access.

Alan Warhaftig